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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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International Application No. : PCT/GB99/01597  
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Inventors : David Mark Whitcombe et al.  
Title : NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCE IDENTIFICATION

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Before calculation of the filing fee, please amend the claims of the above-referenced patent application, as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or claim 2";

Claim 4, lines 1-2, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--;

Claim 5, lines 1-2, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--;

Claim 7, line 1, delete "or claim 6";

Claim 8, lines 1-2, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--;

~~Claim 10, line 1, delete "or claim 9";~~

~~Claim 12, line 1, delete "or claim 11";~~

~~Claim 14, line 1, delete "any one of claims 1 to 11"  
and insert therefor --claim 1--;~~

~~Claim 15, lines 1-2, delete "any one of the preceding  
claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--;~~

~~Claim 17, line 4, delete "any one of the preceding  
claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--;~~

~~Claim 18, lines 2-3, delete "any one of the preceding  
claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--;~~

~~Claim 19, line 3, delete "any one of the preceding  
claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--;~~

~~Claim 23, line 2, delete "or claim 22";~~

~~Claim 24, lines 1-2, delete "or composition of any one  
of claims 21 to 23" and insert therefor --of claim 21--;~~

~~Claim 25, lines 2-3, delete ", composition or system  
of any one of claims 21 to 24" and insert therefor --of claim 21--  
-;~~

~~Claim 27, lines 1-2, delete "agent or composition of  
any one of claims 21 to 23" and insert therefor -detection agent~~

~~comprising: an unaggregated metal particle, being associated  
with a SAS and with a TBS via an SSG-- and~~

~~line 3, delete "any one of claims 1 to 19"  
and insert therefor --claim 1--.~~

~~Cancel claim 26.~~

Please add the following new claims:

28. A composition comprising two or more detection agents as claimed in claim 22, each having a distinctive SAS.

29. A system comprising the agent of claim 22 plus a nucleic acid sample.

*a2*  
30. A system comprising the composition of claim 23 plus a nucleic acid sample.

31. A system comprising the composition of claim 28 plus a nucleic acid sample.

32. An apparatus comprising a SERRS analyzer plus a composition of claim 23.

33. An apparatus comprising a SERRS analyzer plus a composition of claim 28.

34. An apparatus comprising a SERRS analyzer plus a system of claim 29.

35. An apparatus comprising a SERRS analyzer plus a system of claim 30.

36. An apparatus comprising a SERRS analyzer plus a system of claim 31.

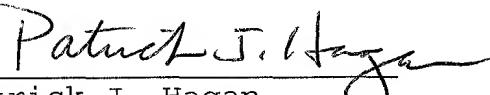
REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to delete multiple claims dependencies, to effect grammatical changes in certain of the claims and to conform the claims to the requirements of U.S. patent practice.

The foregoing amendments do not introduce new matter into the present application, and, therefore should be entered without objection.

Early and favorable action on the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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PJH:ksk